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BOBBY L. RUSH
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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August 21, 2009

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Gov. Quinn:

Recently you have asked University of Illinois Board of Trustees for resignation letters in the wake of a report about the school's admissions scandal. Included among those trustees are Attorney James D. Montgomery and Dr. Frances Carroll. I respectfully request that you reconsider your request for the resignation of these individuals.

Atty. Montgomery is an outstanding citizen, legal scholar and civil rights activist. He is the former corporation counsel for the City of Chicago under Mayor Harold Washington, and the head of one of the nation's most outstanding law firms. It is grossly unfair to mire his hard earned, highly regarded reputation and his exceptional character by your request. I have personally known Mr. Montgomery and his family for several decades and they are beyond reproach. He is a man of high honor and high moral character. I agree with him in his assertion that should he step down this would be an act tantamount to admitting guilt.

Mr. Montgomery has been not only a friend but has also provided legal representation for me going back to the early 1960s and he has never failed to conduct himself in the highest professional manner. He has denied any ethnical rationale for his resignation and I stand by him as his friend, his client, his congressman, and his long standing admirer. This attorney is also well regarded in the highest esteem in the African American community and many others around the country.

Dr. Carroll is equally a person of honor and high moral character. She is an outstanding educator and civic leader whose contributions to the school children of Chicago have been invaluable as a Chicago Public Schools teacher and administrator, including the daunting task of serving as principal of the Cook County Juvenile temporary Detention Center.

I trust you will reconsider your position and act accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby L. Rush".

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

BLR/sg